



Globalizing Maritime Awareness with Data Standards

Posted by DoD Executive Agent for Maritime Domain Awareness on Tuesday, November 15, 2011

Data standards enable real-time information sharing with international partners. This guest post by Alicia Belmas is about the application of data standards to support maritime information dominance. Interested in more data standards? Don't miss the Workshop on Info Sharing and Safeguarding Standards, or WIS3, on December 5th, 2011. [Learn more.](#)^[1]

Maritime Domain Awareness

Maritime Domain Awareness is an inter-agency and international effort to detect and prevent threats at sea or in any navigable waterway. Our success is dependent upon regional and global partnerships and information sharing among the U.S. maritime community of interest as well as our international partners.

Trident Warrior 2011

[Trident Warrior](#) ^[2] is an annual training exercise hosted by the U.S. Navy to test new innovations in naval operations in a real-world environment. This year's primary objective was to improve information interoperability between the U.S. and coalition partners. During the exercise, British, French, and American navies partnered using standardized data to track ships at sea. Specifically, they used the National Information Exchange Model-Maritime (NIEM-M) to share and exchange data from Automatic Identification Systems, an automated tracking system that exchanges data electronically between vessels and tracking stations to locate and identify other vessels.

NIEM-M Helps Share and Track Threats in Real Time

[NIEM](#) ^[3] is an international program, supported by the federal government, to promote and facilitate standardized information sharing and exchanges by connecting communities of interest in order to advance their missions.

During Trident Warrior, the [Maritime Safety & Security Information System \(MSSIS\)](#) ^[4] supplied NIEM-compliant [Automatic Identification System](#) ^[5] data to the participants, allowing them to track and identify friendly, neutral, and hostile vessels on Google Maps. Each navy had a common picture of all vessels in the exercise.

The British navy used Google Earth to track ships in the English Channel and Caribbean areas, sharing more than 10,000 vessel position reports and identifying four vessels of interest ? i.e., potential threats. The French and U.S. navies were then able to rapidly provide additional information on the vessels, as well as identify and share information about other potential vessels of interest.

These immediate results were possible because all parties agreed to a common method of information sharing and exchange. NIEM-M ensured interoperable information gathering, fusing, analysis, and sharing, demonstrating that the whole maritime picture is truly greater than the sum of its parts.

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[4] http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maritime_Safety_and_Security_Information_System

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